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parable with the results of another. The author says that there is no craniometrical work which treats in systematic connection the single problems of craniometry, which are taken up by different authors and on different occasions. Craniometrical technics is under such suspicion, that the most elementary questions cannot be solved without difficulties. To carry out a unified and systematic analysis from the different standpoints would fail, even if one had all the instruments and apparatus in use, because the instruments have been constructed for a special end, and therefore only a special result can be reached. The purpose of the author is not only to make a systematic investigation of the problems of craniometry up to the present time, but also to consider a whole series of problems which have hitherto been inaccessible on account of the craniometrical methods employed. There are those who allow their national spirit to control their scientific spirit, and those who treat the ideas of craniologists as naïve. There is no essential difference between the French and German systems, scientifically considered; one is as good as the other. The results of study on the cranium should be brought into more certain connection with the head of the living man. The German horizontal plane has great practical value, because it can be employed upon the cranium, and at the same time upon the head of the living man. The French horizontal plane is valuable, since, of all horizontal planes, it possesses the greatest stability with the plane of the orbital axes. But the assumption of the one plane does not necessarily exclude the other, as the "Frankfurter Vereinbarung" publicly declares.

Owing to the great complexity in the form of the cranium, and to the fact that the different racial craniums in many of their morphological variations can only be distinguished by the value of a differential, it is evident that the craniometrical characteristic of a racial cranium cannot be given by means of the single profile-angle and by the carrying out of the few (30) prescribed linear measurements. The two principal craniometrical problems are asymmetry and correlation. By making practical use of both the French and German systems, with the addition of a few new measurements, a large number of linear and angular measurements are given.

As the author gives that which is essential to all previous craniometrical methods, the work is valuable for any independent worker. His practical conclusion is, that one-sided craniometrical eclecticism must be abandoned, and the universal craniometer employed.

*Der Schädel des Raubmörders Schimak.* PROF. DR. MORIZ BENEDIKT. Medizinische Jahrbucher, v. Heft. Wien, 1888.

The author describes the cranium of a robber who had committed murder. It has interest, as being a very full description, by means of an apparatus of precision for measuring craniums, and further, on account of the individual. It is a small cranium; its development from behind forward decreases, so that the forehead is the least developed; it is very asymmetrical; the development of the hemispheres is inferior to that of the mass-development. From the above facts it follows that Schimak's cranium is of a high degree of inferiority.

*Cervelli di Delinquenti (superfici metopica); recherche di anatomia.* PROF. L. TENCHINI. Parma, 1885. pp. 118.

The writer gives the results of investigations on the frontal convolutions and fissures of 32 brains from the prison of Parma. His conclusions do not accord with those of Benedikt, according to which the first and second convolutions should be doubled, but are in harmony with those of Fleisch, Giacomini and Rüdinger. Yet cerebral anomalies are more frequent and varied in criminals than in normal men. The

ascendent frontal convolution appears on the surface better defined in its outlines, and more independent of adjacent convolutions. There are four examples of supernumerary convolutions, but only one offers the characteristic anomaly. The author gives a carefully arranged and detailed table, showing the age, stature, weight, crime, along with the cerebral anatomical peculiarities.

It seems to us that while there is not exact agreement between Tenchini and Benedikt, the results of the former are not a strong argument against a cerebral criminal type, since comparatively so few brains of criminals have been studied.

*Anatomische Studien an Verbrecher-Gehirnen, für Anthropologen, Mediciner, Juristen und Psychologen.* MORIZ BENEDIKT. Wien, 1879. pp. 151.

That man thinks, feels, wills and acts according to the anatomical foundation and physiological development of his brain was a doctrine of faith among the ancients. Owing to the meagre development of anatomy and physiology, this doctrine remained latent for many generations, until the founding of cranioscopy by Blumenbach, and the impetus which Gaul brought to the study of the brain. In spite of all contradictions in detail, the ancient faith doctrine has been more and more strengthened by the results of modern investigations. It is desirable to inquire if the study of criminals' brains will not strengthen still more this faith.

The want of power to resist criminal acts, and the want of feeling the wrong, together with having a clear knowledge of it at the same time, are the two main psychological characteristics of criminals. This defect in moral feeling and willing can be concealed by a superior psychical organization and ability, latent or through complication with insanity. The following facts show defects in the brains of criminals: a defective development of bridges, and thereby an excessive development of fissures; these are found throughout the whole brain. A priori, this would be expected, because otherwise the tendency to defective acts would have been compensated for by other parts of the brain. Criminals are not analogous to monomaniacs, but their actions follow from their whole psychical organization, and in their special manifestation are the product of social conditions. The details of the following results will probably be found to unite with those in epileptics, insane, and in members of encephalo-pathological families. The physiological-psychological value of single facts is not known.

That an atypical and defective brain can function normally, is out of the question. What we do not know is, why such a brain functions this way and not that; and why, under certain psychological conditions, it functions just in this way. From the detailed examination of 19 criminals' brains, two things are established: 1. A type of the confluence of fissures. 2. That those 19 brains belong to this type.

The chief characteristic of this type is, that if we regard the fissures as rivers, floating bodies can pass into almost all the other fissures; also bridges are wanting, which means the lack of important brain substance. The three important fissures of the outer surface, that is, the central fissure, the third frontal fissure and a portion of the interparietal fissure, show a great tendency to unite with the Sylvian fissure, so that we have not only an anterior and posterior rising branch, but also three other branches. Since the third frontal and interparietal fissures tend further to lengthen upwards towards the superior median border, there frequently arise three central parallel fissures, of which the third frontal one appears pre-central, and the interparietal fissure as post or retrocentral. The last formation does not arise through lengthening, but by a flowing together, and partly of fissures that are scarcely seen in the normal